

Dear Parents

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our children who have not accessed our school building this year - we had a few emotional members of staff on Monday morning who were genuinely thrilled to see the faces of children we have really missed. I do feel that the end is in sight to all of this horribleness - but we must, as a community, keep going to ensure we, but especially our children, get the summer that is promised. Clearly Hill Top remains a different school than it usually is, and although I will mention more about routines and procedures in this newsletter, as you can imagine, things remain challenging for us - but we do thank you for your words of support and encouragement as these tricky times continue.



Easter Egg Hamper



Fundraising opportunities have been very limited in the last 14 months, but we are currently running a huge Easter Raffle. The eggs and chocolate have been donated mainly by our staff. Tickets can be purchased on Parent Pay - we are hoping to use the funds from this to bring a farm into school with a whole array of animals as part of a Science Week we are hosting in the Summer Term. Thank you in advance for any purchases of raffle tickets you or your family make.



Decorated Egg competition

We will be having our highly competitive annual decorated egg competition over the next few weeks. You can bring your decorated eggs in any time from Monday 22nd March. This year our theme is about commemorating and thanking all the Key Workers and heroes of the last 12 months. You could consider doctors (you could be imaginative and have Dr. Who, Dr. Doolittle), nurses, firefighters, police officers, teachers, Captain Tom, Jo Wicks, etc- please feel free to let your imagination run wild. There will be prizes in every class and the closing date is

Wednesday 24th March.

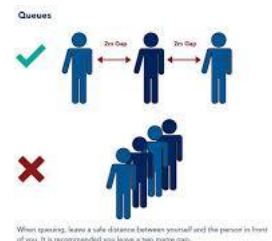
Start and End of the Day - queuing

On the whole, we are reasonably pleased with how we are managing to get all our children into and out of school safely and quickly and, although we are still looking at ways to improve this, we must thank you for the support and patience you have shown us with this challenge.

It remains crucial, under the current restrictions and with infection rates still high, that when you are collecting and picking up you do so as safely as possible.

I don't especially want to bark or shout orders at you - but we would be grateful if:

a) you could not queue at the gates until it is your time slot



- b) if you are queuing on the pavements, please allow enough room for other pedestrians to pass by safely
- c) it is especially tight when Y3 are being picked up, as Nursery are also leaving at a very similar time at the same gate. So could Y3/Y4 parents queue down (so the end of the queue is on Lower School Street) and Nursery parents queue up the footpath (so the end of the queue is towards Common Road)
- d) for the safety of everyone, can you all wear face coverings when you drop off and collect your children (unless you are exempt)

Parking on Zig Zags



Although it might seem a little less busy at the start and end of the day, due to the staggered time, can you please ensure that you do not park on the zigzags outside school -they are there to keep everyone safe.

Covid-19 Signs / Symptoms and Protocols

We recognise that there are an awful lot of mixed and confusing messages out there about the symptoms of Covid-19 that we need to look out for and take action. For Hill Top, we are using the Bradford guidelines, which state the key symptoms are:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8 °C or higher) and/or
- new, continuous cough and/or
- loss or change in normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)



If any of our children display any of these symptoms in school or have displayed any of them at home, it is essential that they should stay at or be sent home (along with any siblings) and arrange for a test.

If your child has developed symptoms and s/he does not have a test - they will need to self-isolate for 10 days whilst their family contacts must also self-isolate for 10 days.

If Hill Top has a confirmed case (with a positive test result), the child or adult concerned will need to self-isolation for 10 days and their school bubble and family contacts will need to do the same for 10 days.

How to access testing

If you have symptoms, either log on to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access. Contacts without symptoms should not get tested unless they develop COVID symptoms or are advised to by Public health.

Hygiene

- Wash hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds, using soap and water

- For coughs and sneezes: [catch it, bin it, kill it](#)
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products

Social distancing

- Limit contact with other people
- Stay 2 metres apart from people where possible
- Wash your hands regularly
- Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

Travel

- Avoid using public transport and travel on foot or by bicycle if possible

Face coverings

- Should be worn by most people when in enclosed spaces, such as on public transport, in taxis, when visiting a hospital, in shops and supermarkets and whenever we are indoors with people who are not part of our household or bubble
- Should not be worn by children under the age of 3 and are not required for children under the age of 11.
- Are not required where there is a [legitimate reason](#) for someone not to wear one, such as a physical or mental impairment or disability
- In primary schools where social distancing is not possible head teachers have the discretion to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to wear face coverings in busy communal areas. All staff and the restricted visitors we have all currently take these precautions.



Shine Time Assemblies

Although we had planned Shine Time Assemblies as if we were living in a non Covid-19 world, it is clear that following the current restrictions in place, which are likely to remain in place for some months, any form of bringing parents into school will most likely not be allowed up to Spring Bank and possibly beyond.

Weekly Awards

As you know, weekly, we distribute a whole host of awards...Child of the Week, Tidiest Classroom, Attendance Cup etc. - all of which are enthusiastically received. As a Church school, we will also be presenting our Christian Values Award, in the form of a small cross that can be worn on the collar / lapel of a polo shirt.

This award will be given to children who have demonstrated in how they behave the particular Christian Value we are focusing on in school in each particular term. This term we will be looking at '**Forgiveness**' and will be exploring what this means and how we can demonstrate it in our everyday lives.



School Newsletters

A reminder that there are several ways in which you can access school newsletters:

The Hill Top App - there are details on our website on how to find and download this.



App Store

Our school Web site: Another way to access the newsletter is to subscribe on the school website: www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk (Go to 'Parents', choose 'Newsletters' and then scroll down the page to the subscribe section.) The newsletter is also available to view direct from our website. If none of these are possible for you, you can request a paper copy from our school office. Our newsletters contain useful information and exciting opportunities so please don't miss out!

School Uniform

School does not stock school uniform, book bags or pump bags. Instead you can order these on line at <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/> and just look up our school or from The Uniform Shop, Darley Street, Bradford.

We do stock a very small supply of pumps in school which cost £3 per pair.

Dinner Money - KS2 children only



A reminder that those of you who wish to take up school dinners the prices are £1.90 per day or £9.50 per week. Dinner monies are now paid via Parent Pay. Our kitchen staff work really hard to produce cooked school dinners of the highest standards and in line with the governments Healthy Eating agenda. I can thoroughly recommend them! Our kitchen staff are planning some special themed days to promote our hot school lunches over the next few months:

Wednesday 17rd March - a St Patrick's Day themed Lunch

Friday 26th March - an Easter themed lunch

In order for dinner money debt not to be allowed to mount up, we will recommend the sandwich option if debts equate to more than two weeks worth of dinners.

Milk Money

We no longer collect milk money. If you would like your child to have milk, please register on-line at www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk where payment can be made.



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8am and still proves excellent value for money at £3.05 a session. This now has to be booked via Parent Pay This includes both child care in a warm, comfortable, child friendly environment as well as a choice of a filling breakfast package. A newsletter was sent last week detailing how we plan to run Breakfast Club, given the current climate. It is available to view <https://www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk/parents-n/newsletters> on our school website.



After School Care at The Lodge

Our after school care facility for Hill Top children at the Lodge continues this term. The children who accessed it last year really enjoyed it and we hope that it continues to provide a valuable service to working parents. The sessions begin after school and run up to 6pm. As with Breakfast Club, a newsletter was sent last week detailing how we are planning to organise the Lodge and is available to view <https://www.hilltop.ngfl.ac.uk/parents-n/newsletters> on our school website.



Mental Health and Well Being

This, quite rightly, remains a key priority for Hill Top during the rest of this school year - Mindfulness Lessons will continue led by Ms. Turner our Learning Mentor. We will also promote our Well Being Passports which are a range of 20 activities per year group that we would like all children to access during the course of the year - some of these activities (which range from planning and cooking a meal to walking to the top of a hill!) will be done as part of the school curriculum, but we will also be encouraging our families to participate in some outside of school hours. The Passports are also available to see on line from our Home Page, go to School, then Curriculum, choose your child's year group and then click on Activity Passport.

Free School Meals

Whilst we know that all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal - this is known as the Universal Free School Meal offer - it is very important that they, as well as the parents of any Key Stage 2 children, still register via the Bradford Council Website if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (you will need to apply directly to the school or call the Education Service on 01274 439393)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400



Hill Top CE Primary School Lottery

One of our supporters continues to win a cash prize each week. At the moment these cash prizes are small. We would love to get more supporters and increase the prize fund! Please see the details below of how to sign up and be in with a chance of winning. Your weekly ticket purchase will mean that Hill Top receives funds which will be used to improve our school grounds. We would love to continue to develop our outdoor area. We can't do it without your support, so please sign up and encourage friends and family to do the same.

To start supporting, visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Search for: Hill Top

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



D. Martin - Head Teacher